

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 874

To amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a financial assistance program to facilitate the provision of supportive services for very low-income veteran families in permanent housing, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 14, 2007

Mr. BURR introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a financial assistance program to facilitate the provision of supportive services for very low-income veteran families in permanent housing, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Services to Prevent
5 Veterans Homelessness Act of 2007”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR SUPPORTIVE SERV-**
 2 **ICES FOR VERY LOW-INCOME VETERAN FAMI-**
 3 **LIES IN PERMANENT HOUSING.**

4 (a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to fa-
 5 cilitate the provision of supportive services for very low-
 6 income veteran families in permanent housing.

7 (b) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter V of chapter 20
 9 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by add-
 10 ing at the end the following new section:

11 **“§ 2044. Financial assistance for supportive services**
 12 **for very low-income veteran families in**
 13 **permanent housing**

14 “(a) DISTRIBUTION OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—

15 (1) The Secretary shall provide financial assistance to eli-
 16 gible entities approved under this section to provide and
 17 coordinate the provision of supportive services described
 18 in subsection (b) for very low-income veteran families oc-
 19 cupying permanent housing.

20 “(2) Financial assistance under this section shall con-
 21 sist of per diem payments for each such family for which
 22 an approved eligible entity is providing or coordinating the
 23 provision of supportive services.

24 “(3)(A) Subject to the availability of appropriations
 25 provided for such purpose, the Secretary shall provide to
 26 each family for which an approved eligible entity is pro-

1 viding or coordinating the provision of supportive services
2 per diem payments in the amount of the daily cost of care
3 estimated by such eligible entity (as adjusted by the Sec-
4 retary under subparagraph (C)).

5 “(B) In no case may the amount of per diem paid
6 under this paragraph exceed the rate of per diem author-
7 ized for State homes for domiciliary care under subsection
8 (a)(1)(A) of section 1741 of this title, as adjusted by the
9 Secretary under subsection (c) of such section.

10 “(C)(i) The Secretary may adjust the daily cost of
11 care estimated by an eligible entity for purposes of this
12 paragraph to exclude other sources of income described
13 in clause (iii) that the eligible entity certifies to be correct.

14 “(ii) Each eligible entity shall provide to the Sec-
15 retary such information with respect to other sources of
16 income as the Secretary may require to make the adjust-
17 ment under clause (i).

18 “(iii) The other sources of income referred to in
19 clauses (i) and (ii) are payments to the eligible entity for
20 furnishing services to homeless veterans under programs
21 other than under this subchapter, including payments and
22 grants from other departments and agencies of the Fed-
23 eral Government, from departments or agencies of State
24 or local government, and from private entities or organiza-
25 tions.

1 “(4) In providing financial assistance under para-
2 graph (1), the Secretary shall give preference to entities
3 providing or coordinating the provision of supportive serv-
4 ices for very low-income veteran families who are
5 transitioning from homelessness to permanent housing.

6 “(5) The Secretary shall ensure that, to the extent
7 practicable, financial assistance under this subsection is
8 equitably distributed across geographic regions, including
9 rural communities and tribal lands.

10 “(6) Each entity receiving financial assistance under
11 this section to provide supportive services to a very low-
12 income veteran family shall notify that family that such
13 services are being paid for, in whole or in part, by the
14 Department.

15 “(7) The Secretary may require entities receiving fi-
16 nancial assistance under this section to submit a report
17 to the Secretary that describes the projects carried out
18 with such financial assistance.

19 “(b) SUPPORTIVE SERVICES.—The supportive serv-
20 ices referred to in subsection (a) are the following:

21 “(1) Services provided by an eligible entity or
22 a subcontractor of an eligible entity that address the
23 needs of very low-income veteran families occupying
24 permanent housing, including—

25 “(A) outreach services;

1 “(B) health care services, including diag-
2 nosis, treatment, and counseling for mental
3 health and substance abuse disorders and for
4 post-traumatic stress disorder, if such services
5 are not readily available through the Depart-
6 ment medical center serving the geographic
7 area in which the veteran family is housed;

8 “(C) habilitation and rehabilitation serv-
9 ices;

10 “(D) case management services;

11 “(E) daily living services;

12 “(F) personal financial planning;

13 “(G) transportation services;

14 “(H) vocational counseling;

15 “(I) employment and training;

16 “(J) educational services;

17 “(K) assistance in obtaining veterans bene-
18 fits and other public benefits, including health
19 care provided by the Department;

20 “(L) assistance in obtaining income sup-
21 port;

22 “(M) assistance in obtaining health insur-
23 ance;

24 “(N) fiduciary and representative payee
25 services;

1 “(O) legal services to assist the veteran
2 family with reconsiderations or appeals of vet-
3 erans and public benefit claim denials and to
4 resolve outstanding warrants that interfere with
5 the family’s ability to obtain or retain housing
6 or supportive services;

7 “(P) child care;

8 “(Q) housing counseling;

9 “(R) other services necessary for maintain-
10 ing independent living; and

11 “(S) coordination of services under this
12 paragraph.

13 “(2) Services described in paragraph (1) that
14 are delivered to very low-income veteran families
15 who are homeless and who are scheduled to become
16 residents of permanent housing within 90 days
17 pending the location or development of housing suit-
18 able for permanent housing.

19 “(3) Services described in paragraph (1) for
20 very low-income veteran families who have volun-
21 tarily chosen to seek other housing after a period of
22 tenancy in permanent housing, that are provided, for
23 a period of 90 days after such families exit perma-
24 nent housing or until such families commence re-
25 ceipt of other housing services adequate to meet

1 their current needs, but only to the extent that serv-
 2 ices under this paragraph are designed to support
 3 such families in their choice to transition into hous-
 4 ing that is responsive to their individual needs and
 5 preferences.

6 “(c) APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—

7 (1) An eligible entity seeking financial assistance under
 8 subsection (a) shall submit to the Secretary an application
 9 therefor in such form, in such manner, and containing
 10 such commitments and information as the Secretary deter-
 11 mines to be necessary to carry out this section.

12 “(2) Each application submitted by an eligible entity
 13 under paragraph (1) shall contain—

14 “(A) a description of the supportive services
 15 proposed to be provided by the eligible entity;

16 “(B) a description of the types of very low-in-
 17 come veteran families proposed to be provided such
 18 services;

19 “(C) an estimate of the number of very low-in-
 20 come veteran families proposed to be provided such
 21 services;

22 “(D) evidence of the experience of the eligible
 23 entity in providing supportive services to very low-in-
 24 come veteran families; and

1 “(E) a description of the managerial capacity of
2 the eligible entity—

3 “(i) to coordinate the provision of sup-
4 portive services with the provision of permanent
5 housing by the eligible entity or by other orga-
6 nizations;

7 “(ii) to assess continuously the needs of
8 very low-income veteran families for supportive
9 services;

10 “(iii) to coordinate the provision of sup-
11 portive services with the services of the Depart-
12 ment;

13 “(iv) to tailor supportive services to the
14 needs of very low-income veteran families; and

15 “(v) to seek continuously new sources of
16 assistance to ensure the long-term provision of
17 supportive services to very low-income veteran
18 families.

19 “(3) The Secretary shall establish criteria for the se-
20 lection of eligible entities to be provided financial assist-
21 ance under this section.

22 “(d) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—(1) The Secretary
23 shall provide training and technical assistance to partici-
24 pating eligible entities regarding the planning, develop-

1 ment, and provision of supportive services to very low-in-
 2 come veteran families occupying permanent housing.

3 “(2) The Secretary may provide the training de-
 4 scribed in paragraph (1) directly or through grants or con-
 5 tracts with appropriate public or nonprofit private entities.

6 “(e) FUNDING.—(1) From amounts appropriated to
 7 the Department for Medical Care, there shall be available
 8 to carry out this section amounts as follows:

9 “(A) \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2008.

10 “(B) \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2009.

11 “(C) \$25,000,000 for fiscal year 2010.

12 “(2) Not more than \$750,000 may be available under
 13 paragraph (1) in any fiscal year to provide technical as-
 14 sistance under subsection (d).

15 “(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

16 “(1) The term ‘consumer cooperative’ has the
 17 meaning given such term in section 202 of the
 18 Housing Act of 1959 (12 U.S.C. 1701q).

19 “(2) The term ‘eligible entity’ means—

20 “(A) a private nonprofit organization; or

21 “(B) a consumer cooperative.

22 “(3) The term ‘homeless’ has the meaning
 23 given that term in section 103 of the McKinney-
 24 Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11302).

1 “(4) The term ‘permanent housing’ means com-
2 munity-based housing without a designated length of
3 stay.

4 “(5) The term ‘private nonprofit organization’
5 means any of the following:

6 “(A) Any incorporated private institution
7 or foundation—

8 “(i) no part of the net earnings of
9 which inures to the benefit of any member,
10 founder, contributor, or individual;

11 “(ii) which has a governing board that
12 is responsible for the operation of the sup-
13 portive services provided under this sec-
14 tion; and

15 “(iii) which is approved by the Sec-
16 retary as to financial responsibility;

17 “(B) A for-profit limited partnership, the
18 sole general partner of which is an organization
19 meeting the requirements of clauses (i), (ii),
20 and (iii) of subparagraph (A).

21 “(C) A corporation wholly owned and con-
22 trolled by an organization meeting the require-
23 ments of clauses (i), (ii), and (iii) of subpara-
24 graph (A).

1 “(D) A tribally designated housing entity
2 (as defined in section 4 of the Native American
3 Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act
4 of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4103)).

5 “(6)(A) Subject to subparagraphs (B) and (C),
6 the term ‘very low-income veteran family’ means a
7 veteran family whose income does not exceed 50 per-
8 cent of the median income for an area specified by
9 the Secretary for purposes of this section, as deter-
10 mined by the Secretary in accordance with this para-
11 graph.

12 “(B) The Secretary shall make appropriate ad-
13 justments to the income requirement under subpara-
14 graph (A) based on family size.

15 “(C) The Secretary may establish an income
16 ceiling higher or lower than 50 percent of the me-
17 dian income for an area if the Secretary determines
18 that such variations are necessary because the area
19 has unusually high or low construction costs, fair
20 market rents (as determined under section 8 of the
21 United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C.
22 1437f)), or family incomes.

23 “(7) The term ‘veteran family’ includes a vet-
24 eran who is a single person and a family in which

1 the head of household or the spouse of the head of
 2 household is a veteran.”.

3 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
 4 tions at the beginning of chapter 20 of such title is
 5 amended by inserting after the item relating to sec-
 6 tion 2043 the following new item:

“2044. Financial assistance for supportive services for very low-income veteran families in permanent housing.”.

7 (c) STUDY OF EFFECTIVENESS OF PERMANENT
 8 HOUSING PROGRAM.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—For fiscal years 2008 and
 10 2009, the Secretary shall conduct a study of the ef-
 11 fectiveness of the permanent housing program under
 12 section 2044 of title 38, United States Code, as
 13 added by subsection (b), in meeting the needs of
 14 very low-income veteran families, as that term is de-
 15 fined in that section.

16 (2) COMPARISON.—In the study required by
 17 paragraph (1), the Secretary shall compare the re-
 18 sults of the program referred to in that subsection
 19 with other programs of the Department of Veterans
 20 Affairs dedicated to the delivery of housing and serv-
 21 ices to veterans.

22 (3) CRITERIA.—In making the comparison re-
 23 quired in paragraph (2), the Secretary shall examine
 24 the following:

1 (A) The satisfaction of veterans targeted
2 by the programs described in paragraph (2).

3 (B) The health status of such veterans.

4 (C) The housing provided such veterans
5 under such programs.

6 (D) The degree to which such veterans are
7 encouraged to productive activity by such pro-
8 grams.

9 (4) REPORT.—Not later than March 31, 2010,
10 the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Vet-
11 erans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on
12 Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a
13 report on the results of the study required by para-
14 graph (1).

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